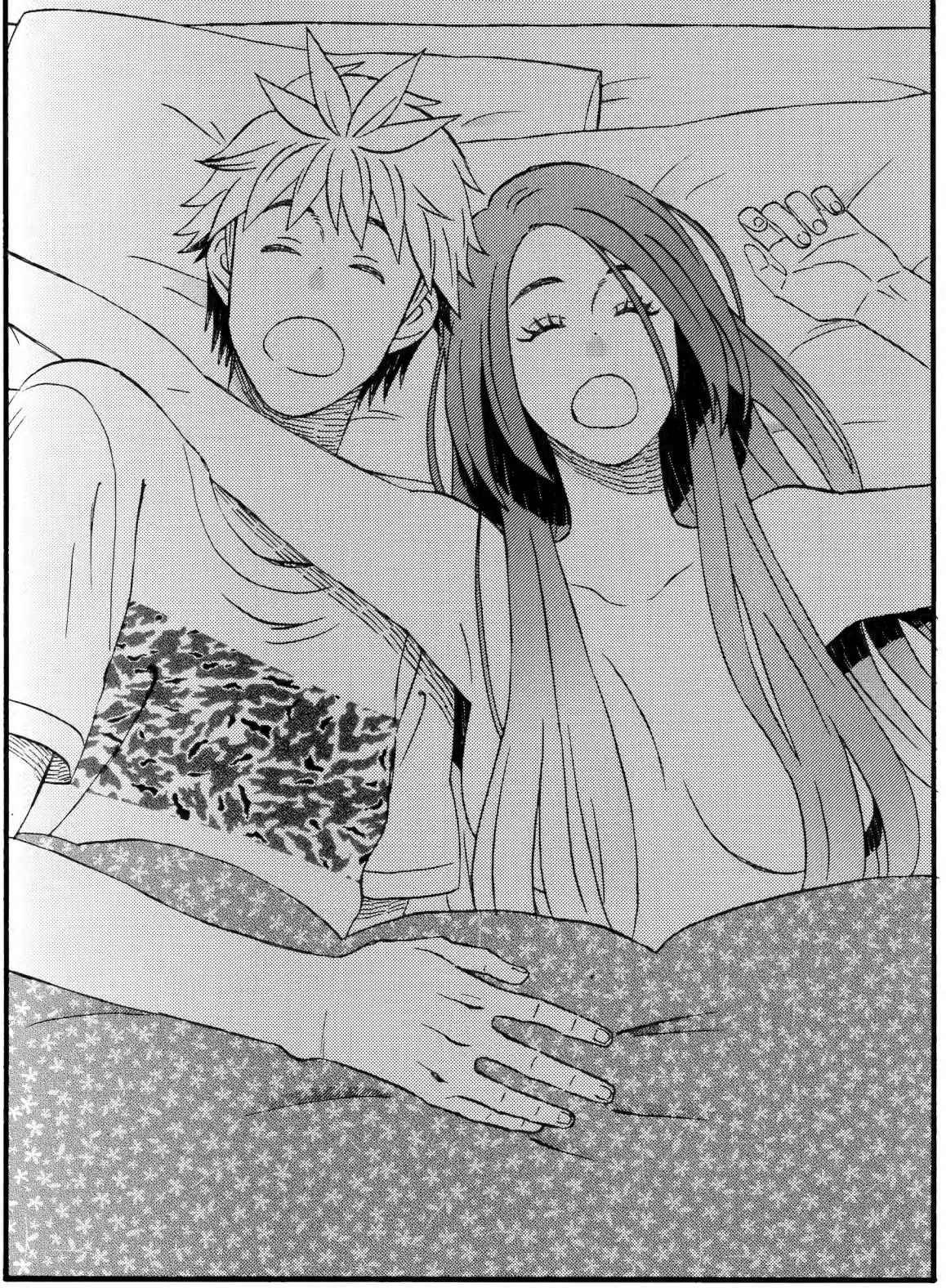
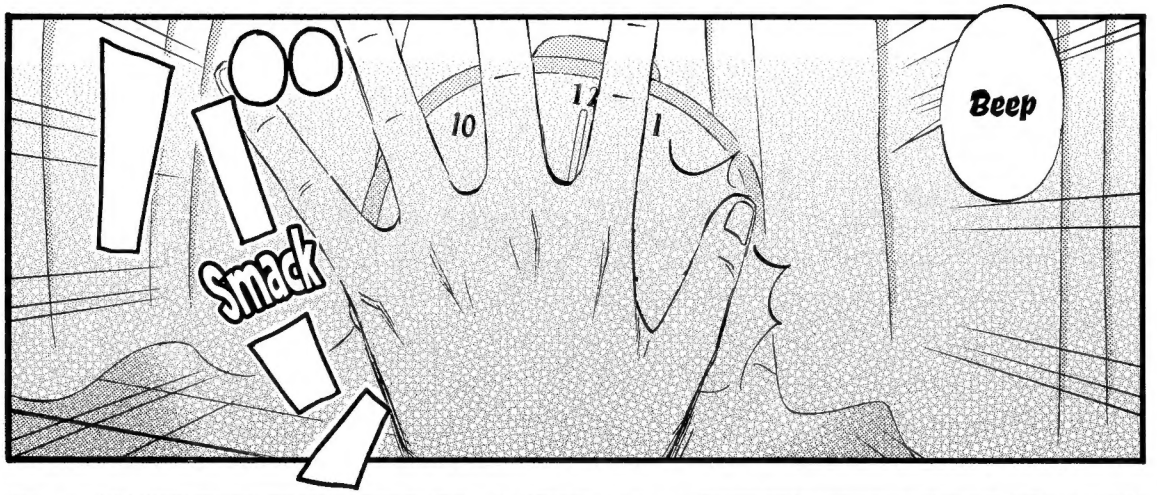
Chapter 18: Kirishima-kun, Taking A Break?

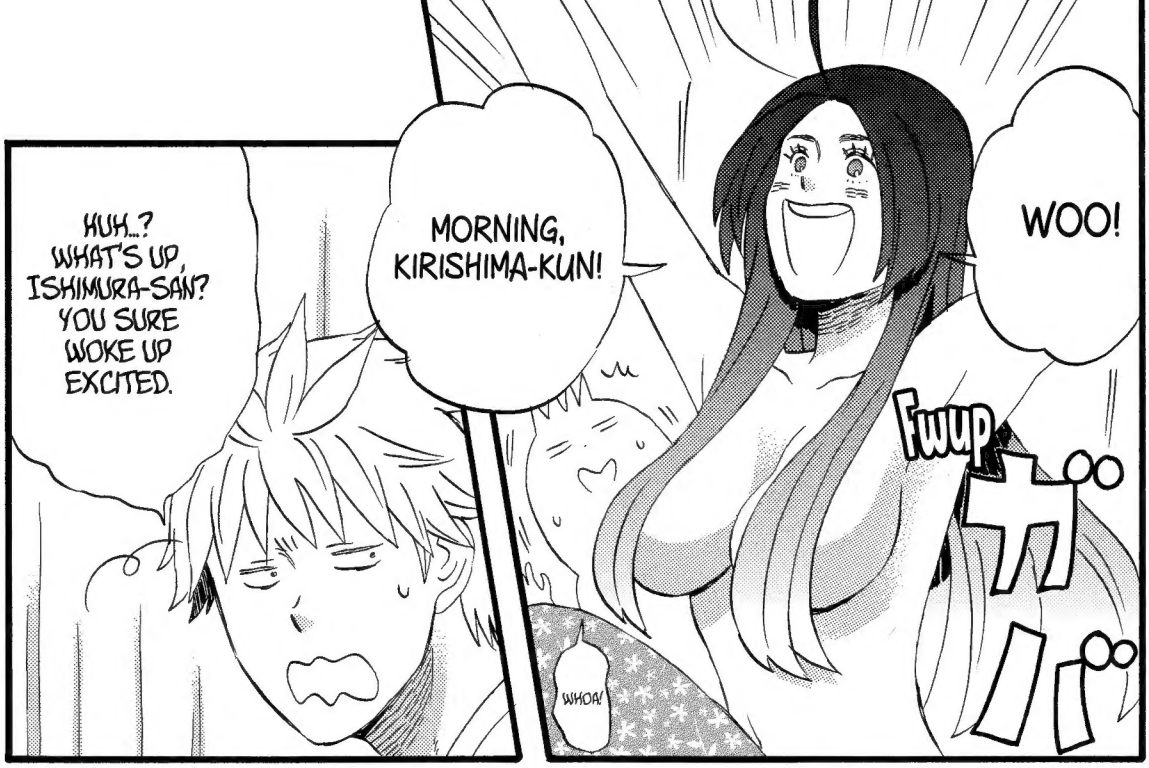


Chirp
Chirp
Beep beep beep beep
Beep beep beep beep
Beep beep beep beep

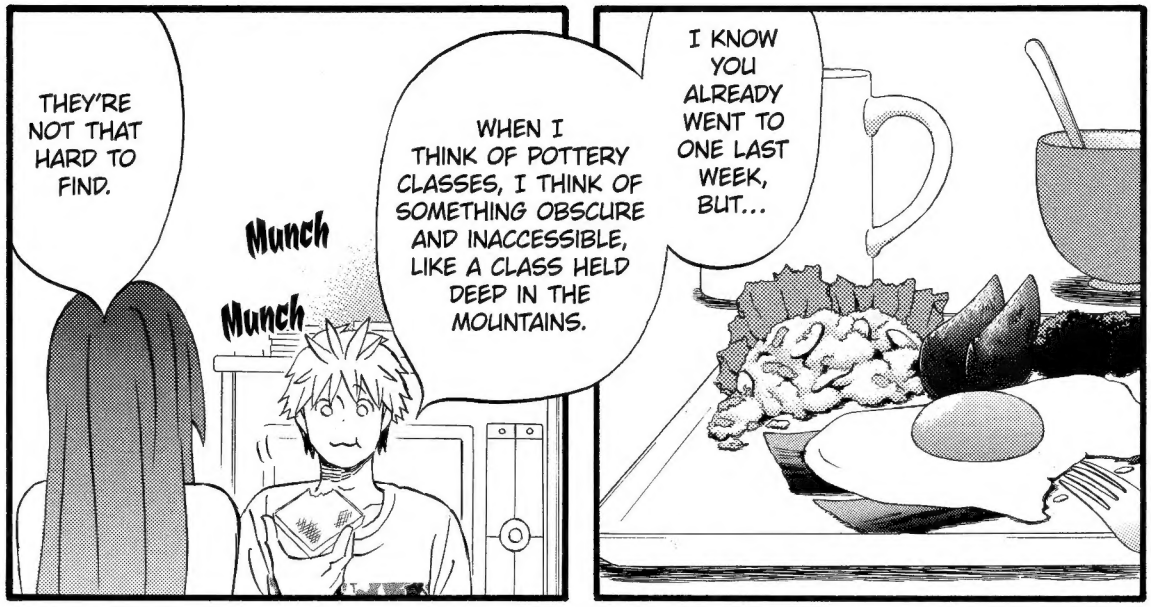

Beep
10
12
1
Smack

NGH...
SO SLEEPY...

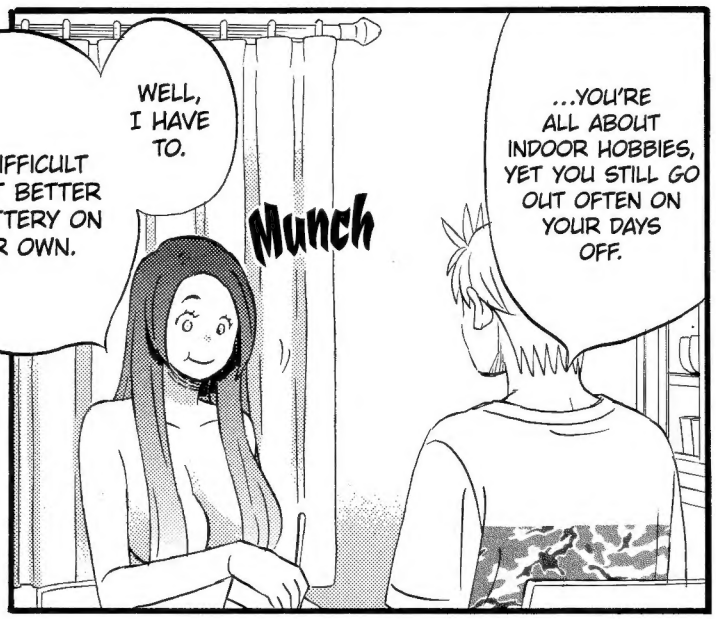
...


WOO!
MORNING, KIRISHIMA-KUN!
HUH...? WHAT'S UP, ISHIMURA-SAN? YOU SURE WOKE UP EXCITED.
Fwup
WHOA!

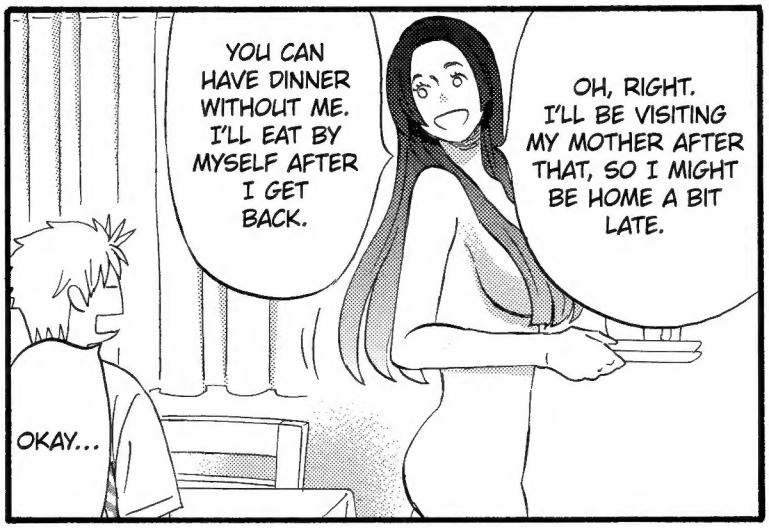
TODAY'S A DAY OFF, SO I'M GOING TO A POTTERY CLASS!
Imp Imp
Yawn...
OHH... I SEE.
IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN DAY FOR YOU.

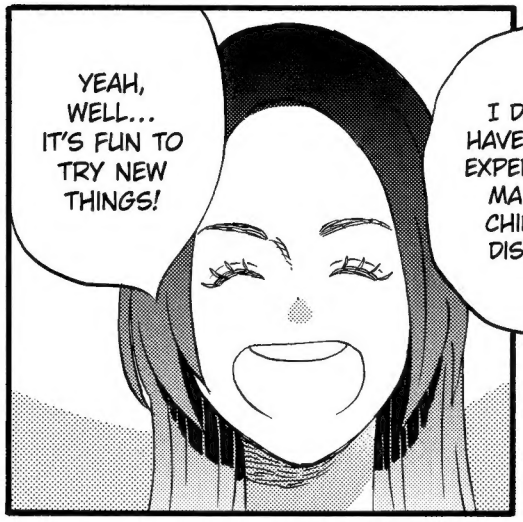

I KNOW YOU ALREADY WENT TO ONE LAST WEEK, BUT...
WHEN I THINK OF POTTERY CLASSES, I THINK OF SOMETHING OBSCURE AND INACCESSIBLE, LIKE A CLASS HELD DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
Munch
Munch
THEY'RE NOT THAT HARD TO FIND.

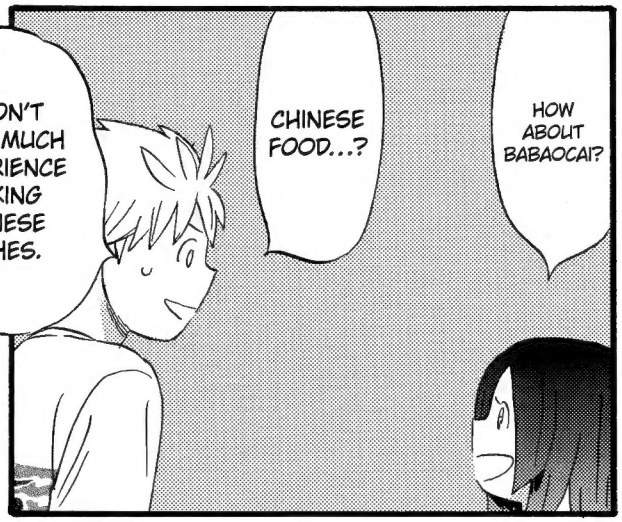
YOU'RE REALLY TAKING THIS HOBBY SERIOUSLY!
Ha ha ha!


IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET BETTER AT POTTERY ON YOUR OWN.
WELL, I HAVE TO.
Munch
...YOU'RE ALL ABOUT INDOOR HOBBIES, YET YOU STILL GO OUT OFTEN ON YOUR DAYS OFF.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO EAT?
HMM...

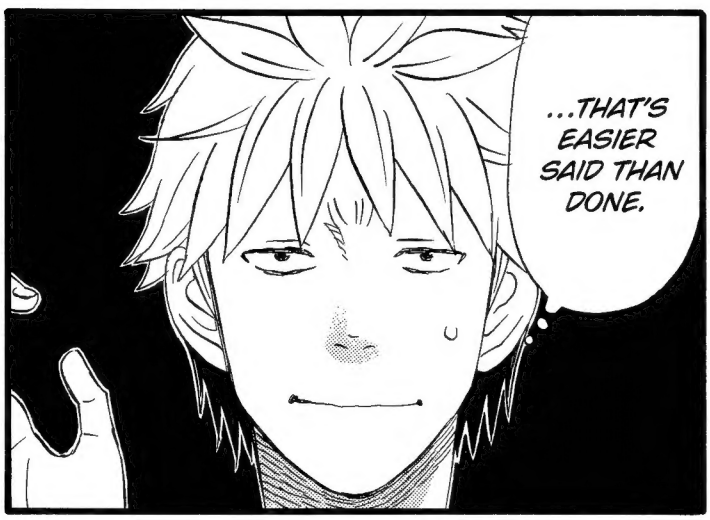

YOU CAN HAVE DINNER WITHOUT ME. I'LL EAT BY MYSELF AFTER I GET BACK.
OH, RIGHT. I'LL BE VISITING MY MOTHER AFTER THAT, SO I MIGHT BE HOME A BIT LATE.
OKAY...

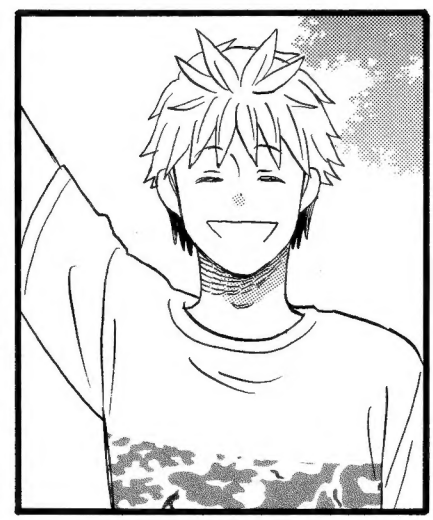

YEAH, WELL... IT'S FUN TO TRY NEW THINGS!

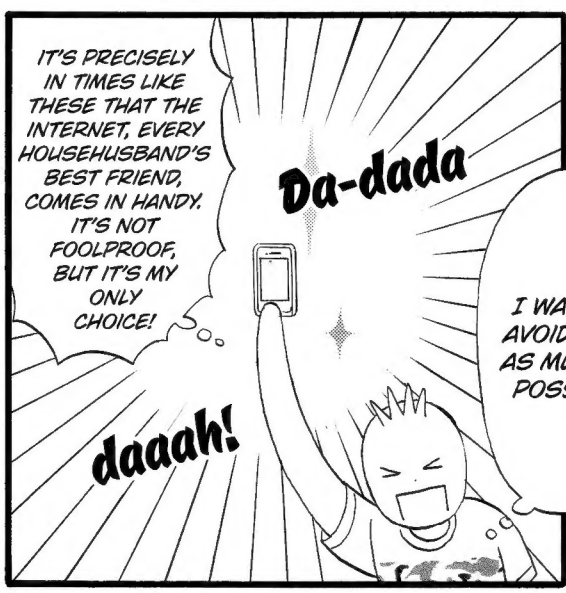

I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE MAKING CHINESE DISHES.
CHINESE FOOD...?
HOW ABOUT BABAOCAI?

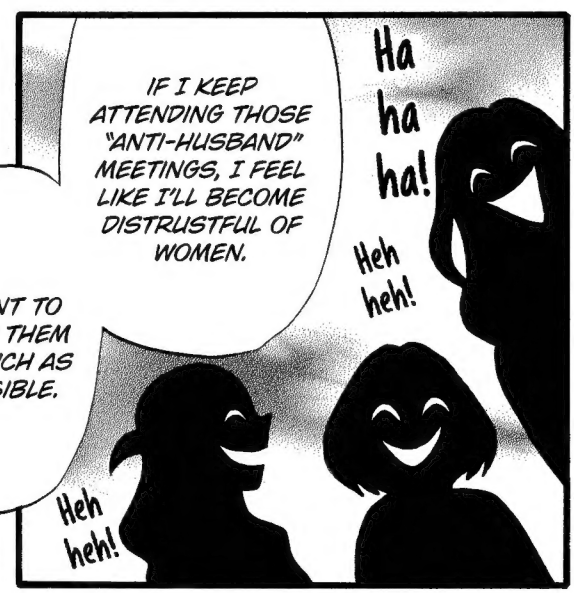
Have a good day!
See you later!

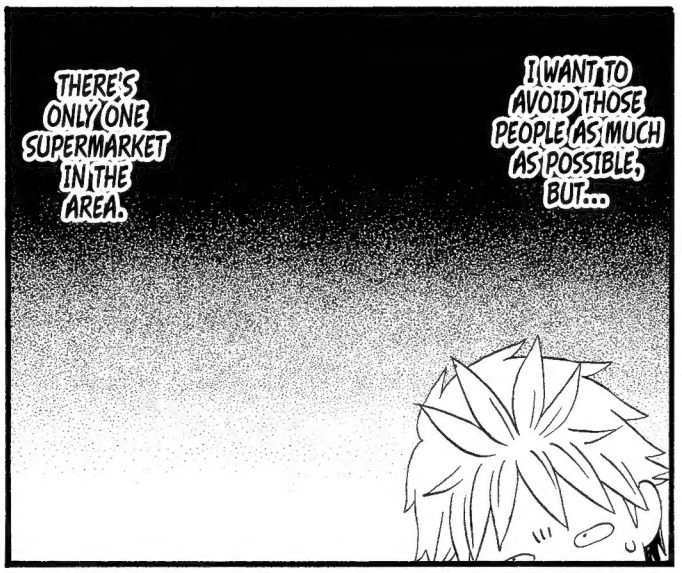
...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THEM FOR A GOOD RECIPE?
BESIDES, YOU BECAME FRIENDS WITH THOSE HOUSEWIVES, RIGHT?


...THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.




IT'S PRECISELY IN TIMES LIKE THESE THAT THE INTERNET, EVERY HOUSEHUSBAND'S BEST FRIEND, COMES IN HANDY. IT'S NOT FOOLPROOF, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHOICE!
Da-dada
daaah!

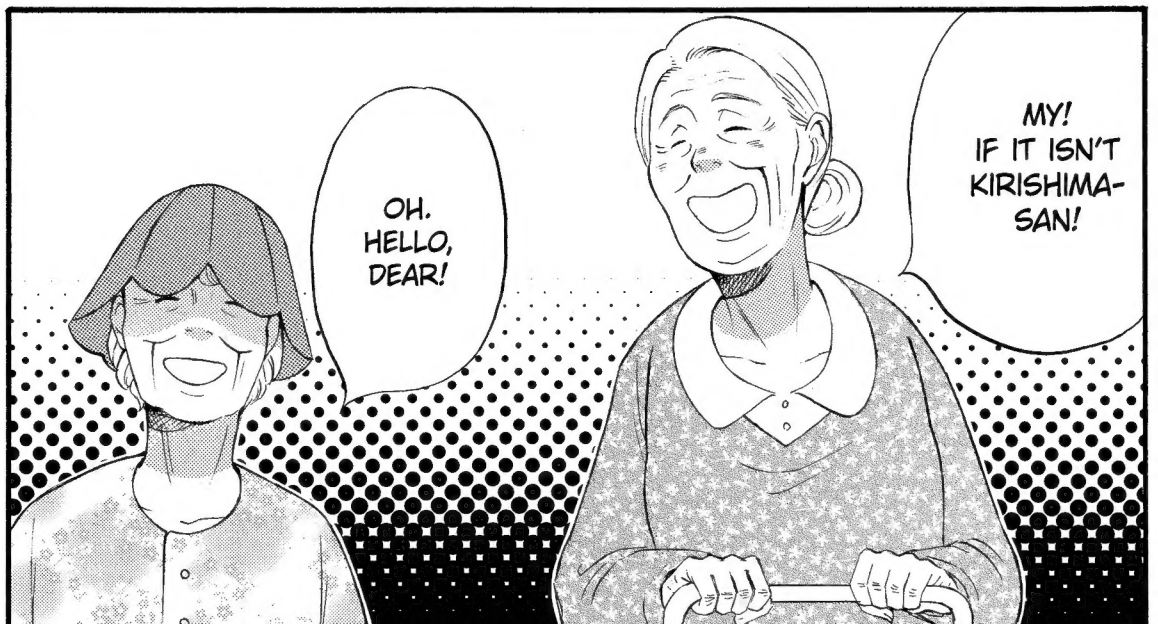

IF I KEEP ATTENDING THOSE "ANTI-HUSBAND" MEETINGS, I FEEL LIKE I'LL BECOME DISTRUSTFUL OF WOMEN.
I WANT TO AVOID THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
Ha ha ha!
Heh heh!
Heh heh!

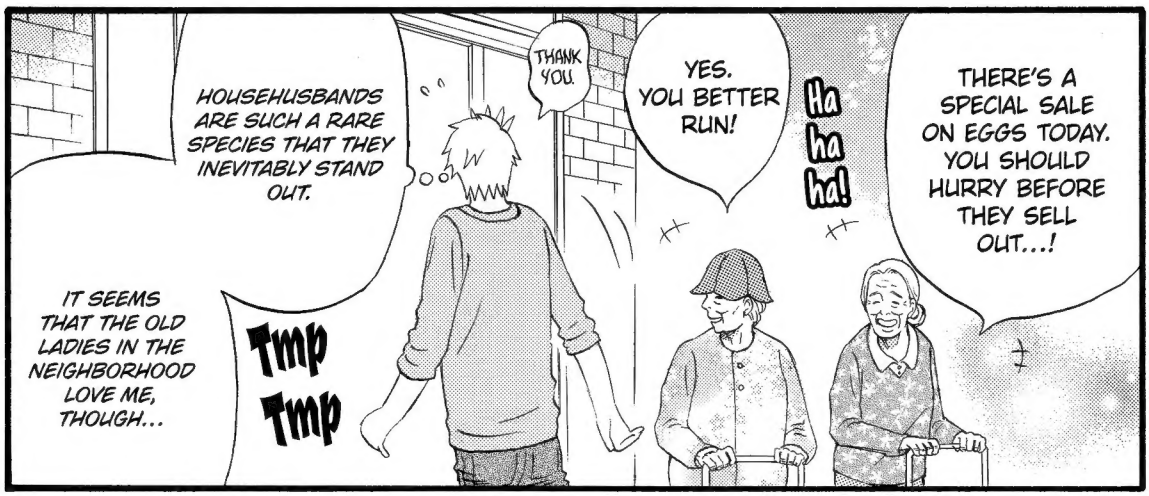

THERE'S ONLY ONE SUPERMARKET IN THE AREA.
I WANT TO AVOID THOSE PEOPLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT...

I DON'T HAVE THE INGREDI-ENTS.
...HMM.

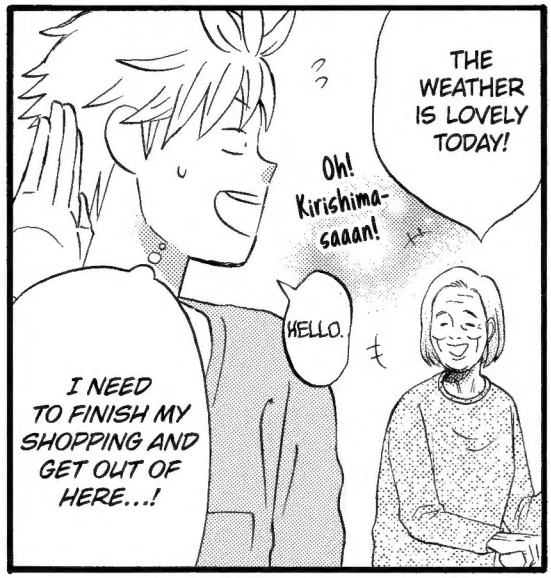
...HOWEVER.
SUPERMARKET

I NEED TO BE QUICK AND STEALTHY LIKE A NINJA.


OH. HELLO, DEAR!
MY! IF IT ISN'T KIRISHIMA-SAN!


HOUSEHUSBANDS ARE SUCH A RARE SPECIES THAT THEY INEVITABLY STAND OUT.
IT SEEMS THAT THE OLD LADIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOVE ME, THOUGH...
Tmp Tmp
THANK YOU.
YES. YOU BETTER RUN!
Ha ha ha!
THERE'S A SPECIAL SALE ON EGGS TODAY. YOU SHOULD HURRY BEFORE THEY SELL OUT...!

GET EVERYTHING QUICKLY!
C'MON, HURRY UP!

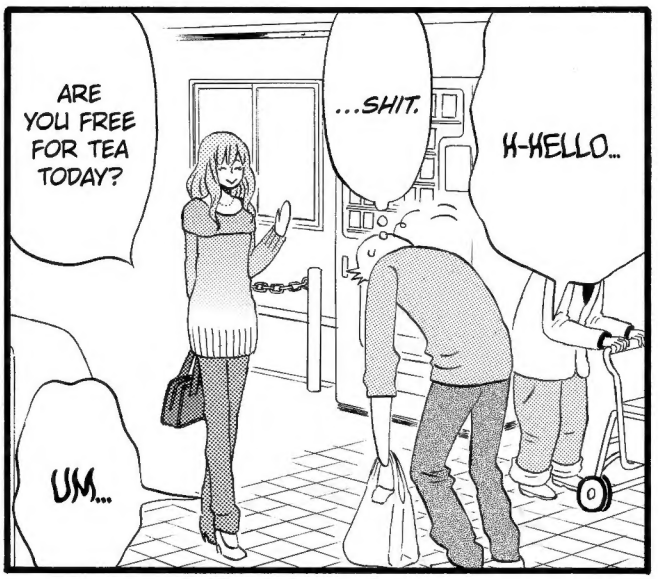

THE WEATHER IS LOVELY TODAY!
Oh! Kirishima-saaan!
HELLO.
I NEED TO FINISH MY SHOPPING AND GET OUT OF HERE...!

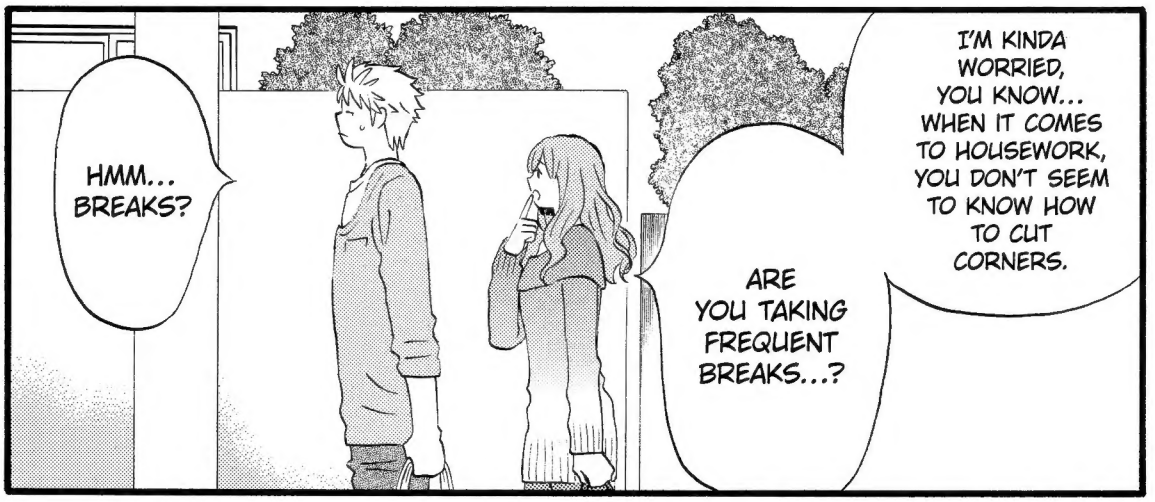
GO HOME QUICKLY!
ALL RIGHT...!

It'll be XX yen.
PAY QUICKLY!

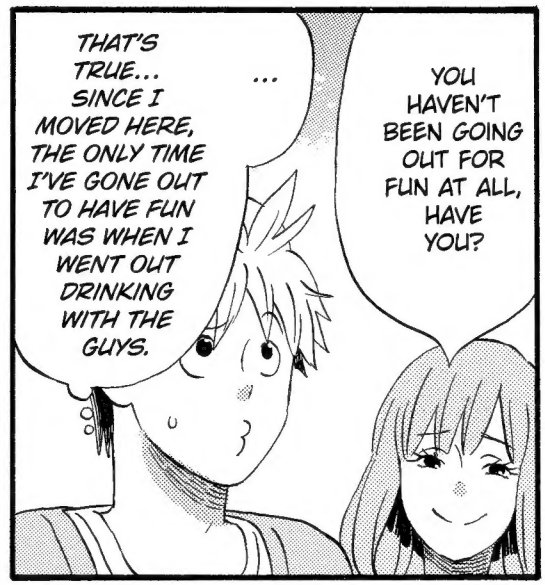
OH. HELLO, KIRISHIMA-SAAAN!

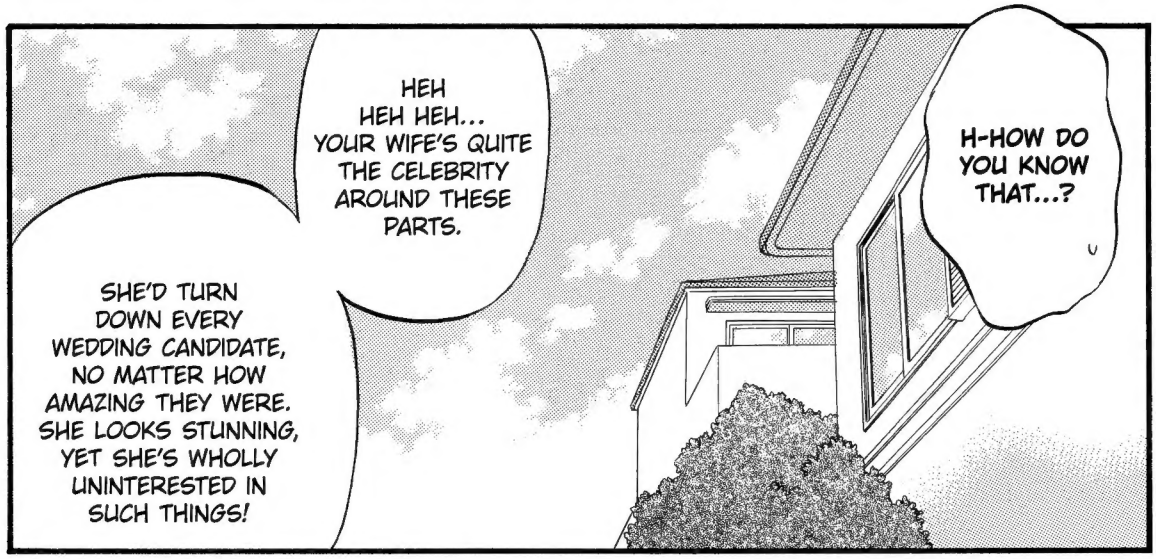
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN MAKE IT.
I STILL HAVE SOME CLEANING TO DO, SO...
WHAAAT? AGAIN...?


ARE YOU FREE FOR TEA TODAY?
...SHIT.
H-HELLO...
UM...

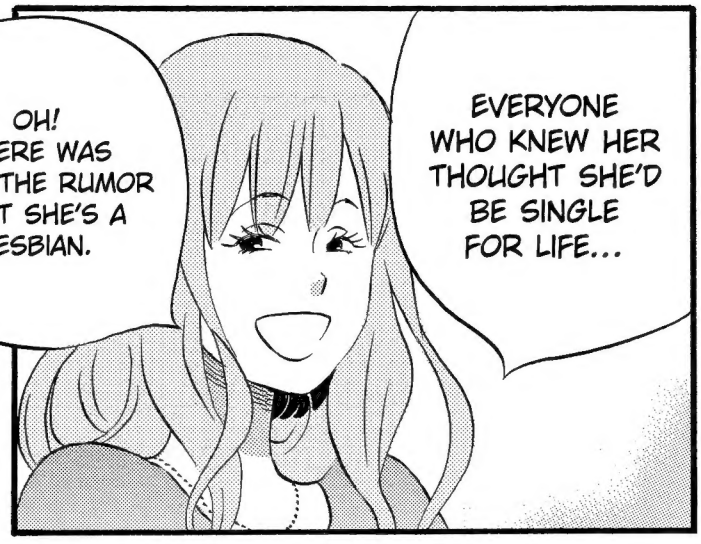

HMM... BREAKS?
ARE YOU TAKING FREQUENT BREAKS...?
I'M KINDA WORRIED, YOU KNOW... WHEN IT COMES TO HOUSEWORK, YOU DON'T SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO CUT CORNERS.

WHAT?!
I MEAN, ISN'T IT UNFAIR? YOUR WIFE WENT OUT TODAY, DIDN'T SHE?

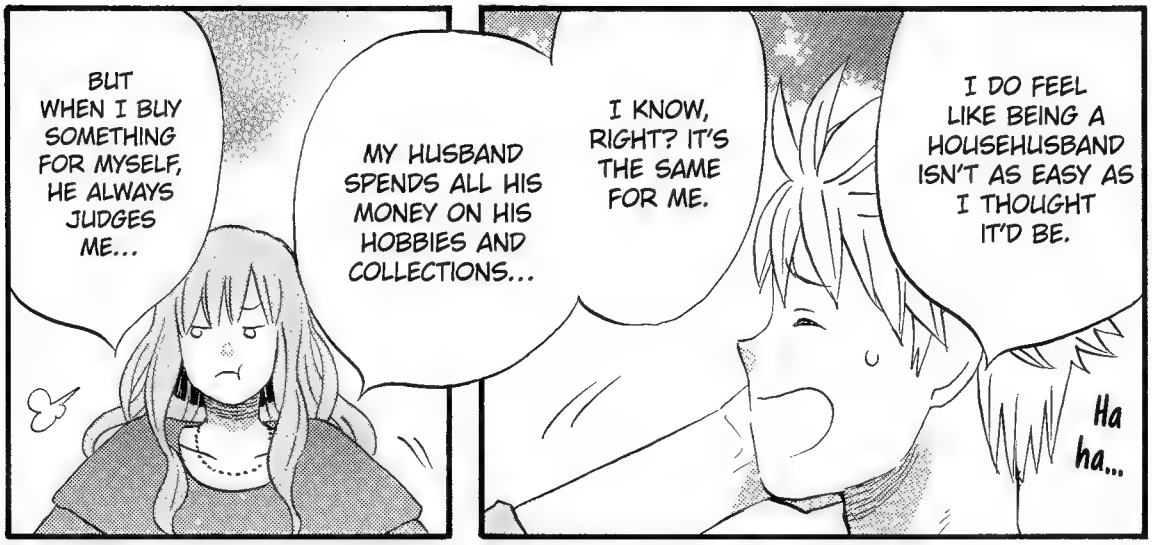

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GOING OUT FOR FUN AT ALL, HAVE YOU?
...
THAT'S TRUE... SINCE I MOVED HERE, THE ONLY TIME I'VE GONE OUT TO HAVE FUN WAS WHEN I WENT OUT DRINKING WITH THE GUYS.

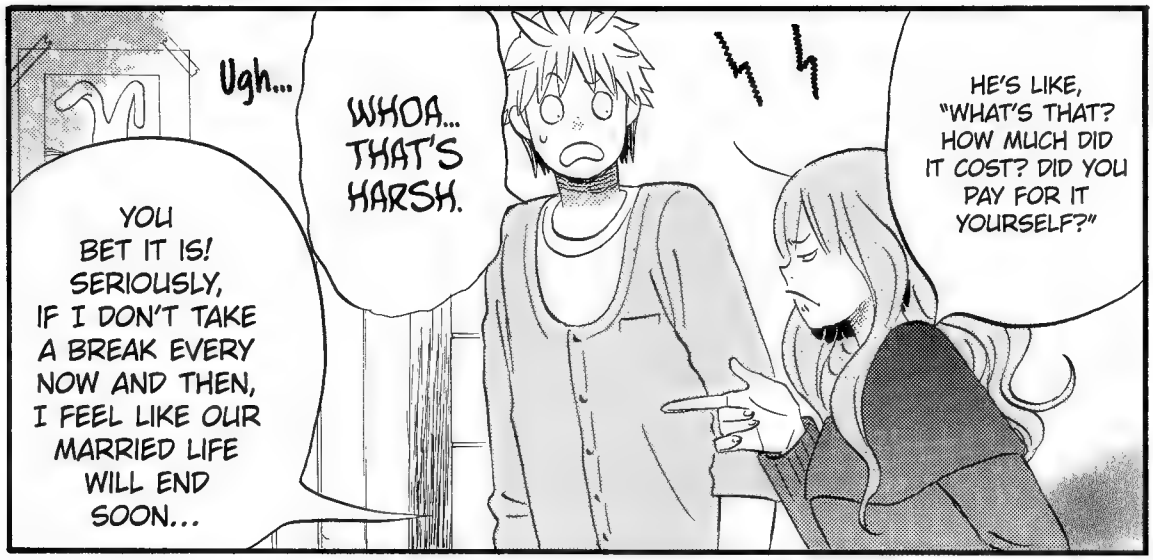

H-HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...?
HEH HEH HEH... YOUR WIFE'S QUITE THE CELEBRITY AROUND THESE PARTS.
SHE'D TURN DOWN EVERY WEDDING CANDIDATE, NO MATTER HOW AMAZING THEY WERE. SHE LOOKS STUNNING, YET SHE'S WHOLLY UNINTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS!

MAKES SENSE. WHEN YOU'RE AN ECCENTRIC BEAUTY LIKE HER, THERE WILL BE RUMORS.

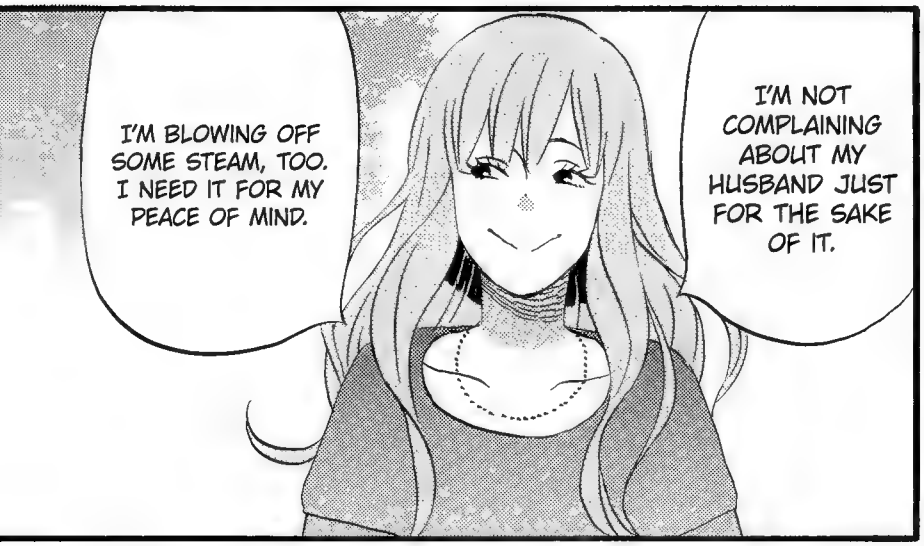

OH! THERE WAS ALSO THE RUMOR THAT SHE'S A LESBIAN.
EVERYONE WHO KNEW HER THOUGHT SHE'D BE SINGLE FOR LIFE...

YOU'RE STILL NEWLYWEDS, SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T THINK ABOUT IT MUCH, BUT...
IT'S WRONG, ISN'T IT? YOUR PARTNER'S OUT HAVING FUN ON HER DAY OFF...
BUT YOU'RE STUCK AT HOME CLEANING, DOING THE LAUNDRY, COOKING...
...
WELL... WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I GUESS SO.

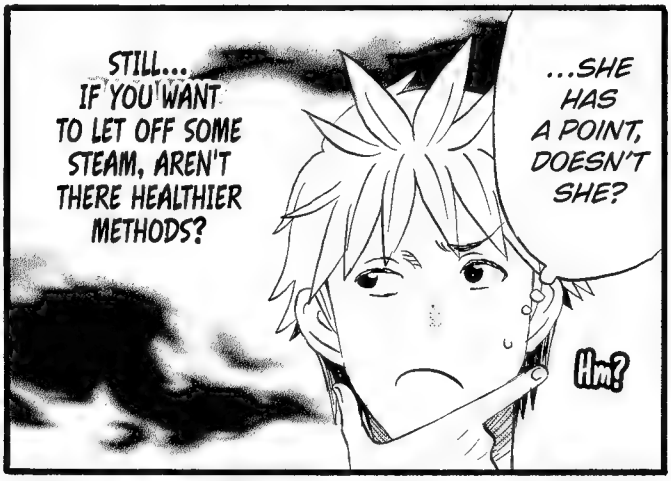

I DO FEEL LIKE BEING A HOUSEHUSBAND ISN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.
Ha ha...
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.
MY HUSBAND SPENDS ALL HIS MONEY ON HIS HOBBIES AND COLLECTIONS...
BUT WHEN I BUY SOMETHING FOR MYSELF, HE ALWAYS JUDGES ME...


HE'S LIKE, "WHAT'S THAT? HOW MUCH DID IT COST? DID YOU PAY FOR IT YOURSELF?"
WHOA... THAT'S HARSH.
Ugh...
YOU BET IT IS! SERIOUSLY, IF I DON'T TAKE A BREAK EVERY NOW AND THEN, I FEEL LIKE OUR MARRIED LIFE WILL END SOON...

HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE ULTIMATELY TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE.
IF YOU DON'T DRAW A MENTAL LINE SOMEWHERE AND LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE, YOU'LL SUFFOCATE...!
...


I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT MY HUSBAND JUST FOR THE SAKE OF IT.
I'M BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM, TOO. I NEED IT FOR MY PEACE OF MIND.

IS THAT ADVICE FOR ME...?
HEH HEH HEH ...

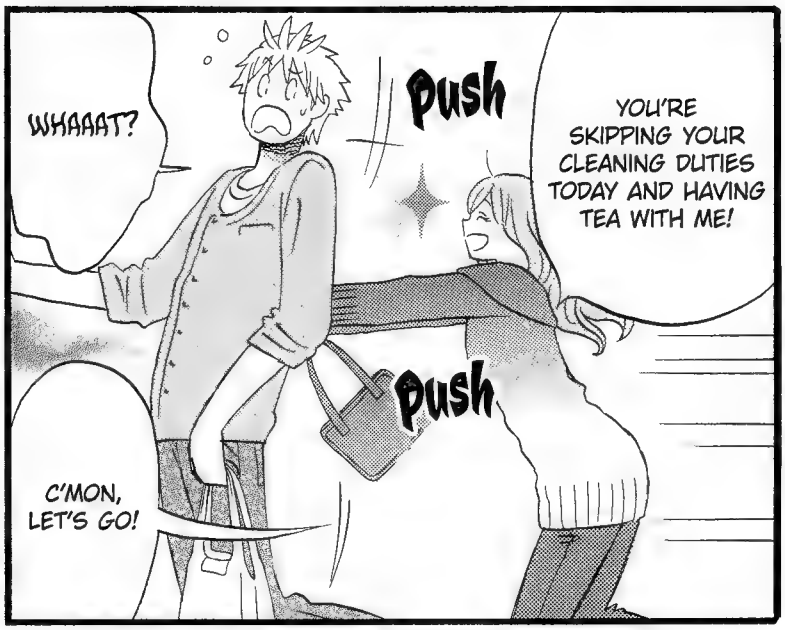

...SHE HAS A POINT, DOESN'T SHE?
STILL... IF YOU WANT TO LET OFF SOME STEAM, AREN'T THERE HEALTHIER METHODS?
Hm?

THEN AGAIN, SHE'S PRETTY MUCH MY SENPAI.

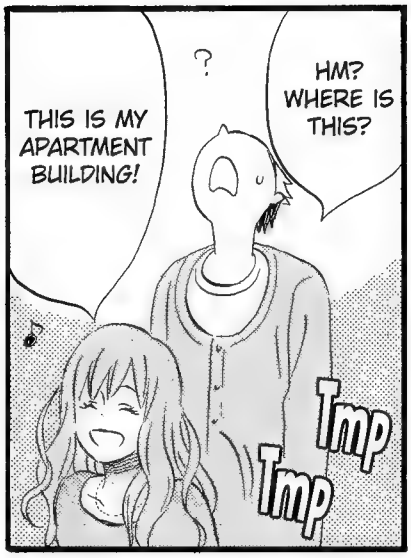
Slip
AND SO...
?

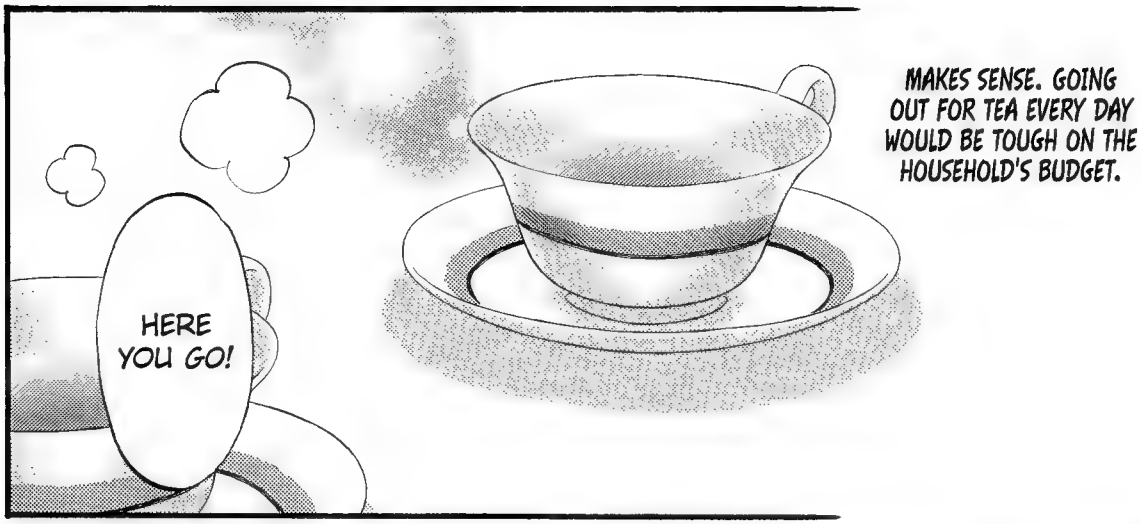
HEH HEH HEH!
I-I'LL KEEP YOUR ADVICE IN MIND.

WHAT A PAIN... I'LL JUST QUICKLY DRINK A CUP AND HURRY HOME RIGHT AFTER THAT.

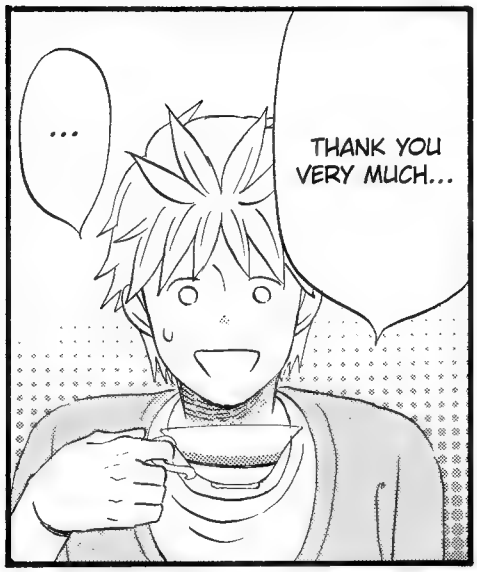

WHAAAT?
Push
YOU'RE SKIPPING YOUR CLEANING DUTIES TODAY AND HAVING TEA WITH ME!
Push
C'MON, LET'S GO!

MAKINO
OHH... SO WE'RE HAVING TEA AT THIS PERSON'S HOUSE TODAY?
MAKINO-SAN, WAS IT...?


HM? WHERE IS THIS?
?
THIS IS MY APARTMENT BUILDING!
Tmp
Tmp

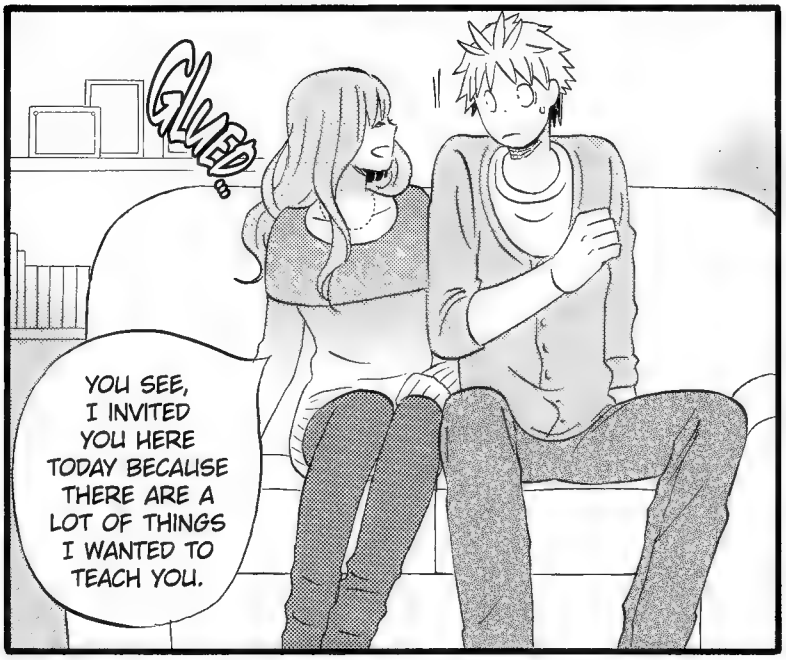

HERE YOU GO!
MAKES SENSE. GOING OUT FOR TEA EVERY DAY WOULD BE TOUGH ON THE HOUSEHOLD'S BUDGET.

...


...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

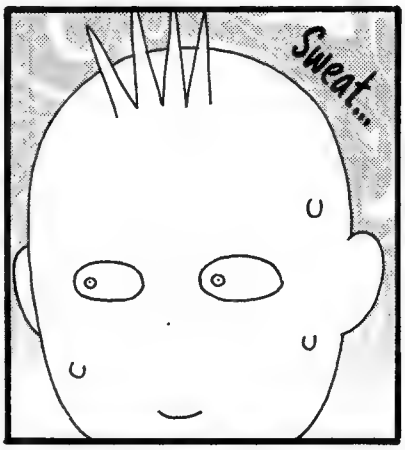
WHAT? SHOULDN'T WE JOIN THEM...?
IT'S FINE!

NO CLUE. PROBABLY AT THE USUAL COFFEE SHOP?
I mean Maeda-san and Nakai-san...
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?
Clack

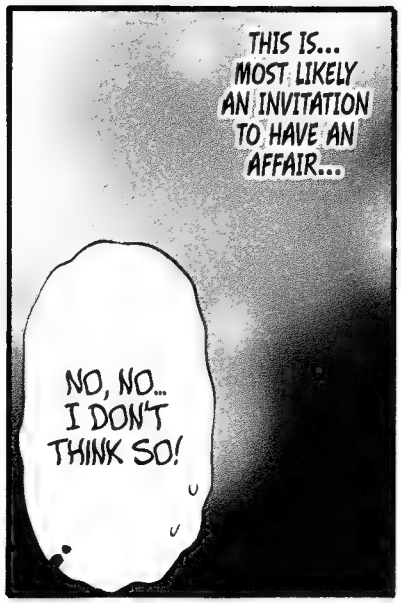

Glued
YOU SEE, I INVITED YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I WANTED TO TEACH YOU.

Slide

HEH HEH HEH... YOUR WIFE'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
...A-A LOT OF THINGS?
I PROBABLY DON'T LOOK ATTRACTIVE AT ALL IN COMPARISON.

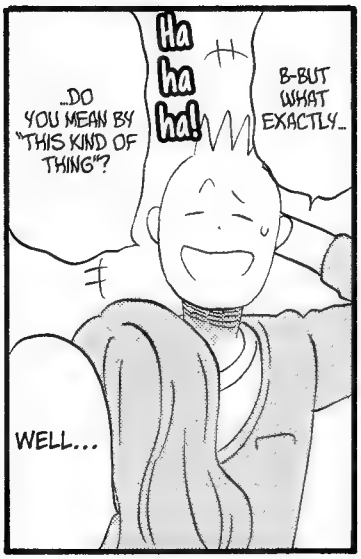

Sweat...

Blow
DOES DOING THIS KIND OF THING BOTHER YOU?

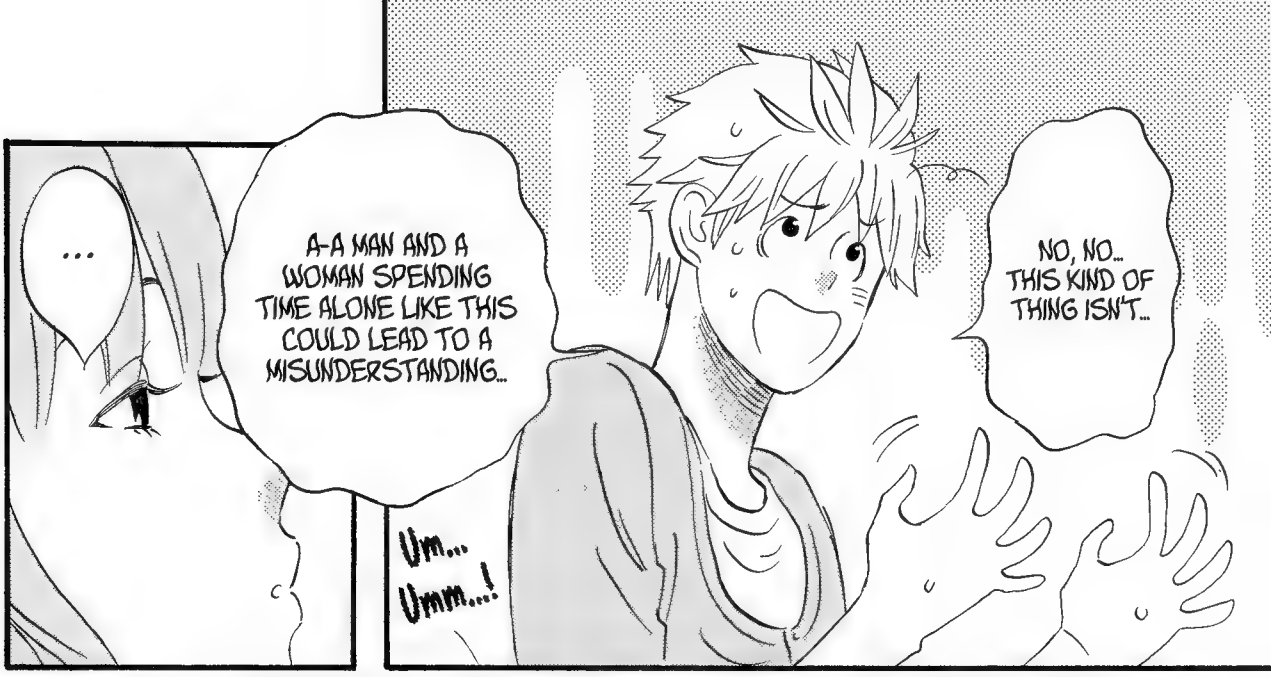

THIS IS... MOST LIKELY AN INVITATION TO HAVE AN AFFAIR...
NO, NO... I DON'T THINK SO!

...THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
TOUCH

AND GETTING ALONG WELL...
CHATTING, JUST THE TWO OF US...
KISS


...DO YOU MEAN BY "THIS KIND OF THING"?
Ha ha ha!
B-BUT WHAT EXACTLY...
WELL...

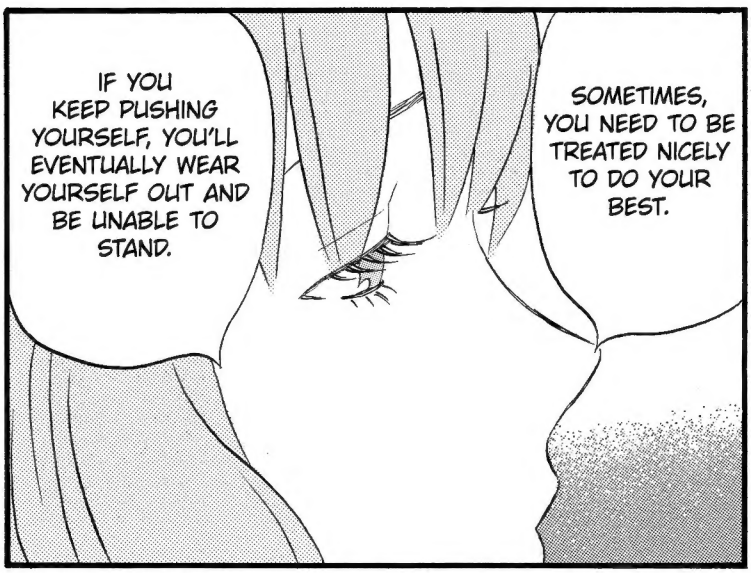
YOU'RE MARRIED, AREN'T YOU?
YES, I AM. AND WE'RE ONLY HAVING TEA...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DOING ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT.
Recoil

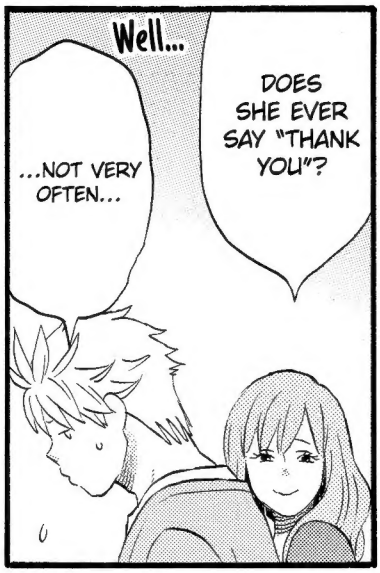

...
A-A MAN AND A WOMAN SPENDING TIME ALONE LIKE THIS COULD LEAD TO A MISUNDERSTANDING...
Um... Umm...!
NO, NO... THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T...

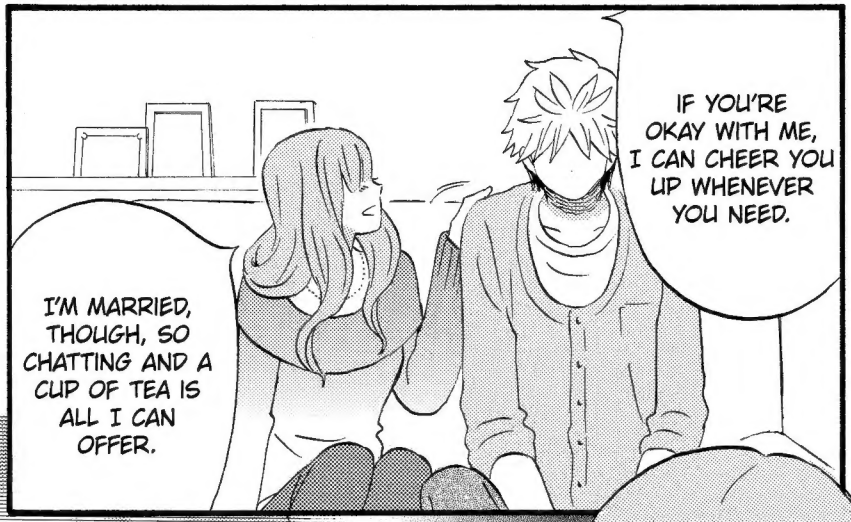
IT'S NORMAL, YOU KNOW... THEY TELL YOU THEY NEED TO "LET LOOSE AND HAVE SOME FUN" ON THEIR DAYS OFF.
ISN'T YOUR WIFE DOING THE SAME?

Heh!

...
SHE DOESN'T SHOW ANY GRATITUDE, DOES SHE?
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, KIRISHIMA-SAN. YOU DO YOUR BEST EVERY DAY... COOKING, CLEANING, AND DOING THE LAUNDRY, AND YET...
I BET YOUR WIFE ONLY THINKS ABOUT HERSELF.

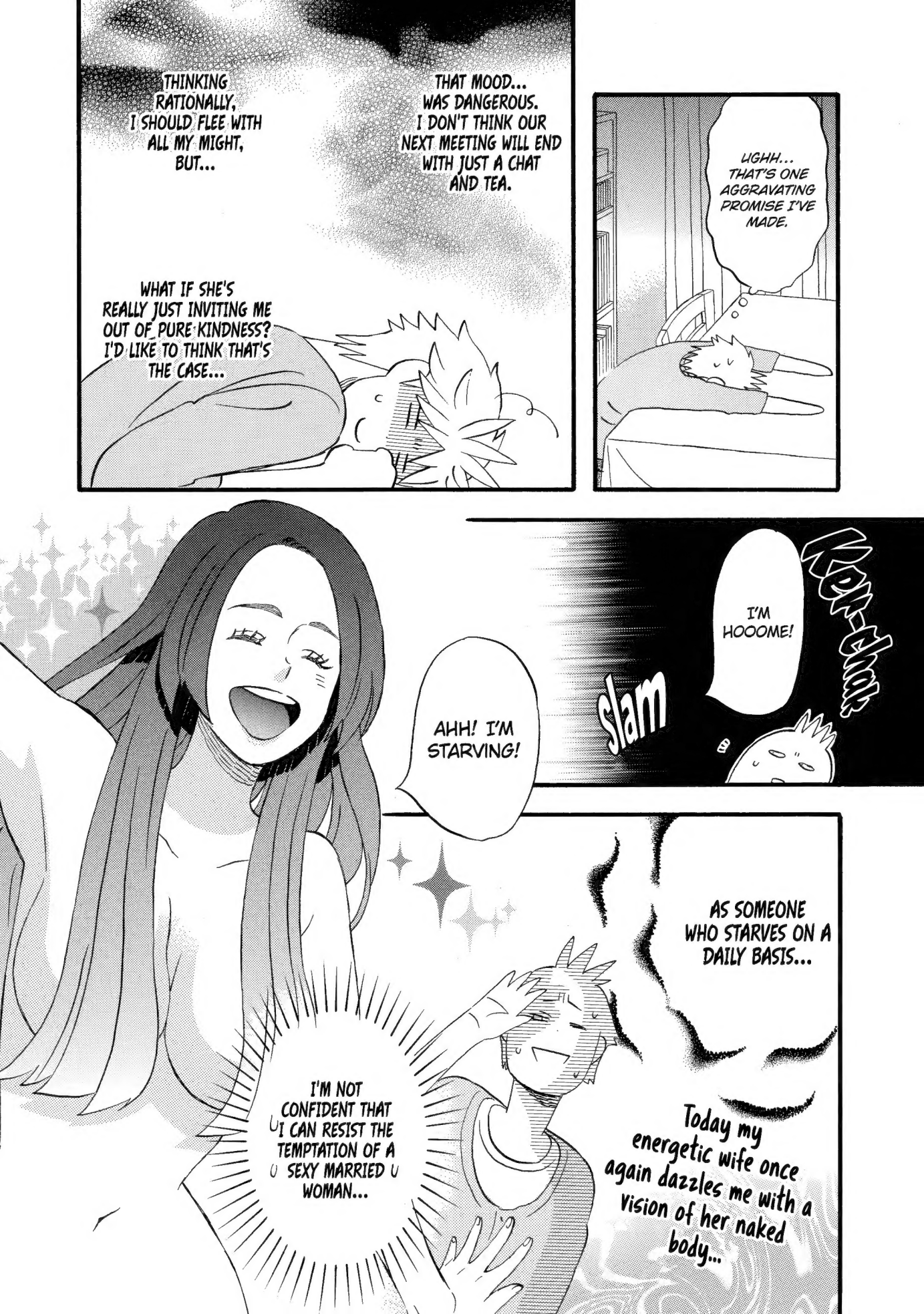

IF YOU KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY WEAR YOURSELF OUT AND BE UNABLE TO STAND.
SOMETIMES, YOU NEED TO BE TREATED NICELY TO DO YOUR BEST.

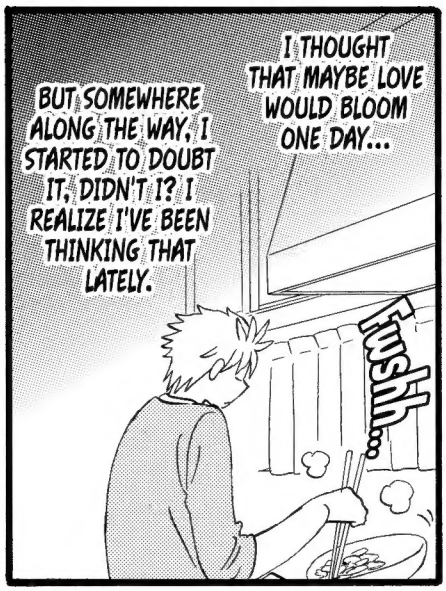

Well...
DOES SHE EVER SAY "THANK YOU"?
...NOT VERY OFTEN...

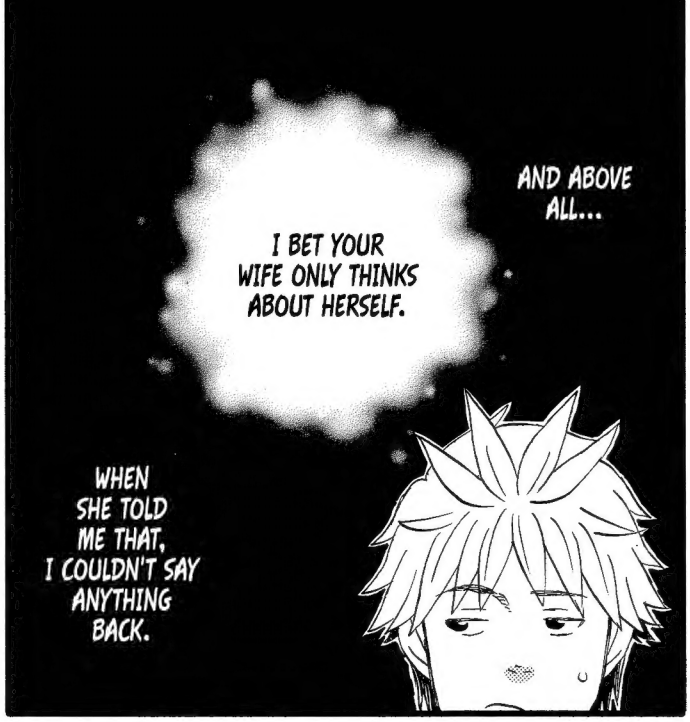

IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH ME, I CAN CHEER YOU UP WHENEVER YOU NEED.
I'M MARRIED, THOUGH, SO CHATTING AND A CUP OF TEA IS ALL I CAN OFFER.

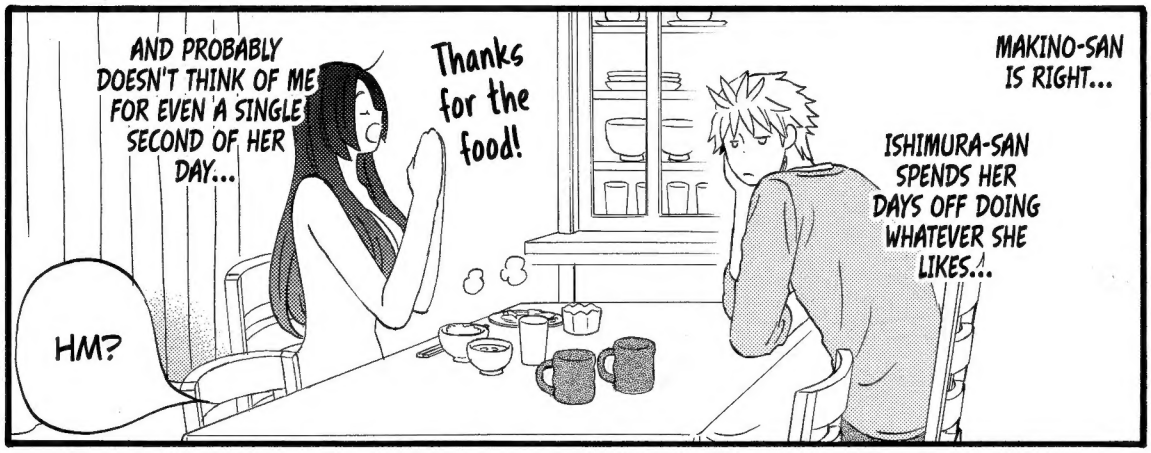
TAP...

LET'S FORGET ABOUT HOUSEWORK EVERY NOW AND THEN, AND SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER.
...


THINKING RATIONALLY, I SHOULD FLEE WITH ALL MY MIGHT, BUT...
THAT MOOD... WAS DANGEROUS. I DON'T THINK OUR NEXT MEETING WILL END WITH JUST A CHAT AND TEA.
WHAT IF SHE'S REALLY JUST INVITING ME OUT OF PURE KINDNESS? I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT'S THE CASE...
UGHH... THAT'S ONE AGGRAVATING PROMISE I'VE MADE.
Kek-Chak
I'M HOOOME!
slam
AHH! I'M STARVING!
AS SOMEONE WHO STARVES ON A DAILY BASIS...
I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT I CAN RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF A SEXY MARRIED WOMAN...
Today my energetic wife once again dazzles me with a vision of her naked body...


I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE LOVE WOULD BLOOM ONE DAY...
BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I STARTED TO DOUBT IT, DIDN'T I? I REALIZE I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT LATELY.
Fwsshh...

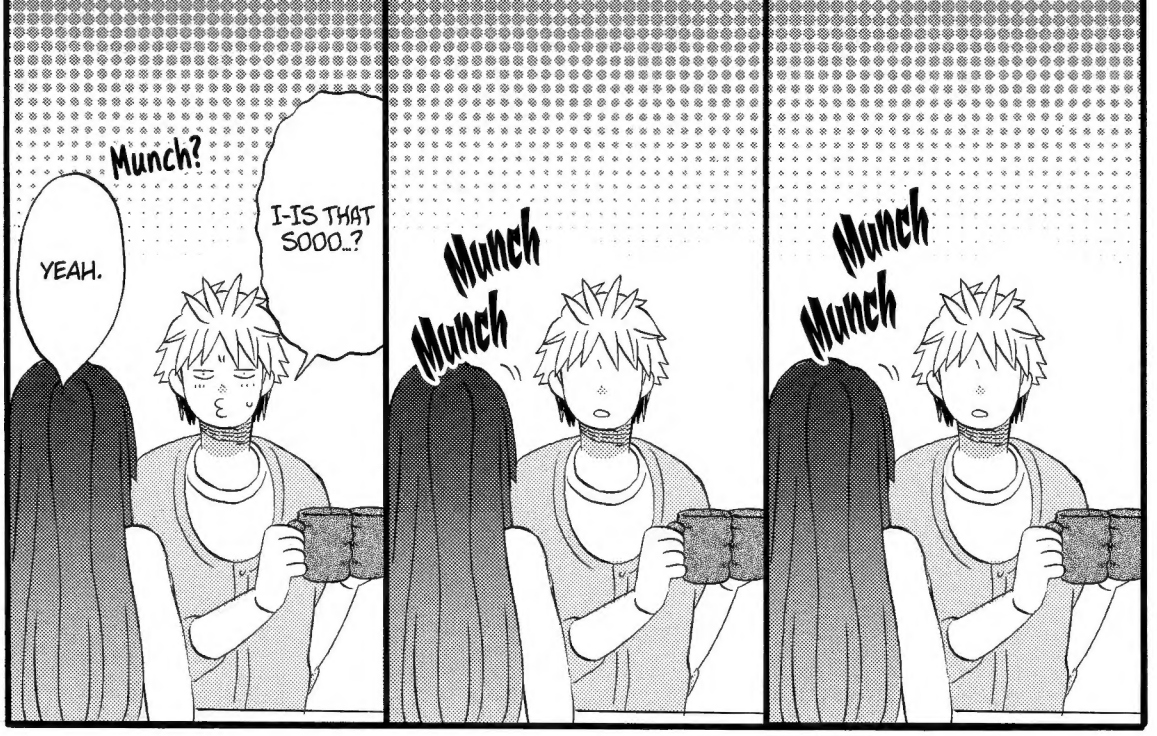

AND ABOVE ALL...
I BET YOUR WIFE ONLY THINKS ABOUT HERSELF.
WHEN SHE TOLD ME THAT, I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK.

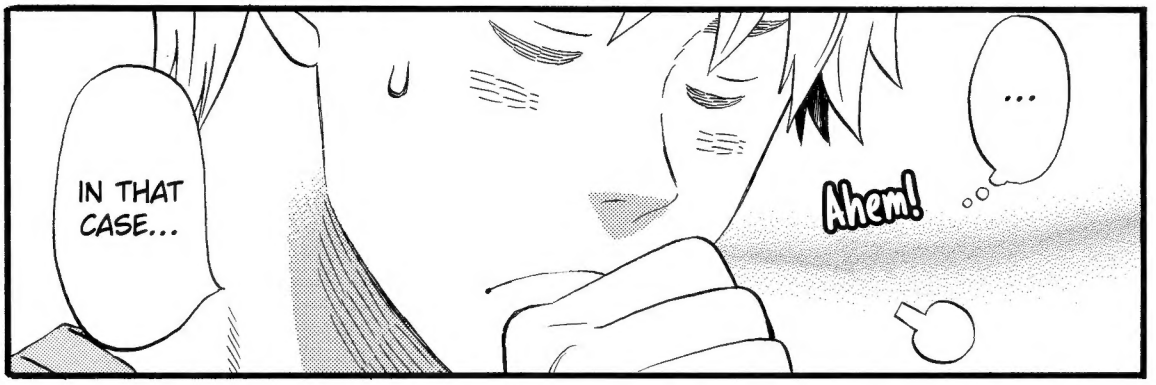

AND PROBABLY DOESN'T THINK OF ME FOR EVEN A SINGLE SECOND OF HER DAY...
Thanks for the food!
MAKINO-SAN IS RIGHT...
ISHIMURA-SAN SPENDS HER DAYS OFF DOING WHATEVER SHE LIKES...
HM?

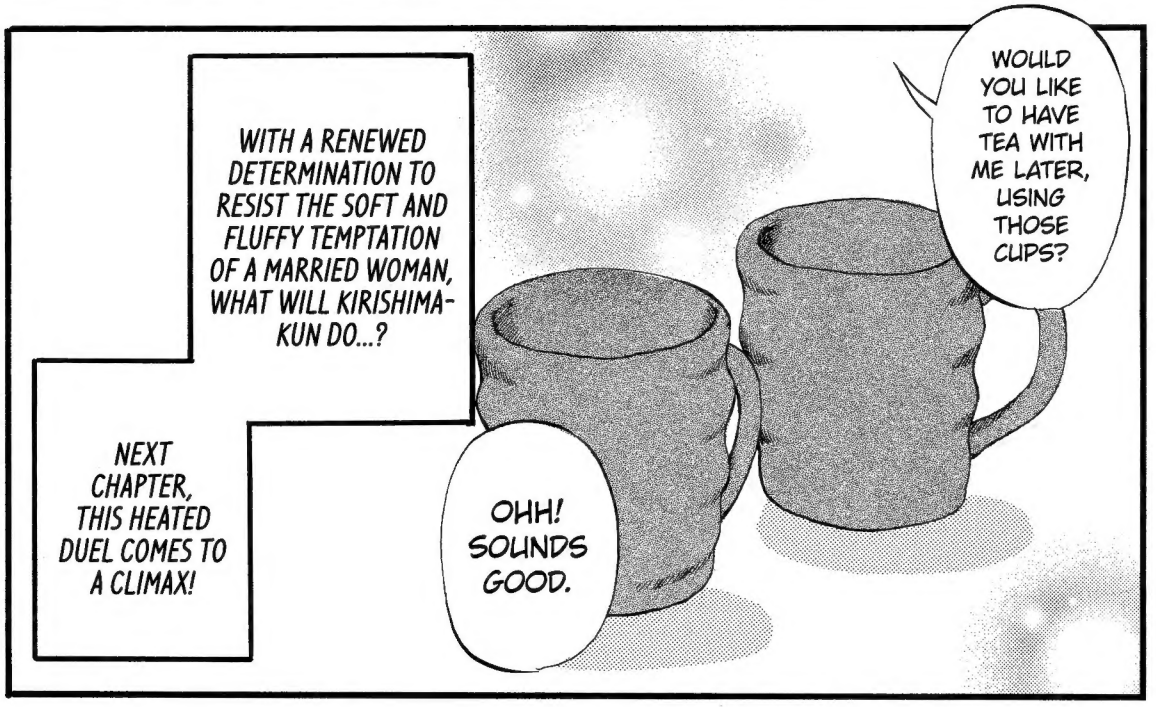
THAT'S YOUR MUG, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
It has your name written on the bottom.

There are two.
OHH?
IS THE OTHER ONE A SPARE?
NO.

WHAT'S WITH THIS MUG?
YEAH. I MADE THAT ONE MYSELF IN LAST WEEK'S CLASS.
A new one?


Munch?
YEAH.
I-IS THAT SOOO...?
Munch Munch
Munch Munch


IN THAT CASE...
Ahem!
...


WITH A RENEWED DETERMINATION TO RESIST THE SOFT AND FLUFFY TEMPTATION OF A MARRIED WOMAN, WHAT WILL KIRISHIMA-KUN DO...?
NEXT CHAPTER, THIS HEATED DUEL COMES TO A CLIMAX!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE TEA WITH ME LATER, USING THOSE CUPS?
OHH! SOUNDS GOOD.